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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Fortieth session
11-22 March 1996
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women:

   (a) Mandate, methods of work and multi-year work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women;

   (b) Review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system;

   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern:

   (i) Poverty;

   (ii) Women and the media;

   (iii) Child and dependant care, including sharing of responsibilities between men and women.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fortieth session.

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Annotations

Item 1. Election of officers

1. Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required. At past sessions, the Commission has elected, in addition to a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

2. In resolution 1987/21, the Economic and Social Council recommended that, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Commission, the officers elected to the bureau of the Commission should serve for a term of office of two years. The Commission will be required to elect a new bureau at the present session. The officers elected will serve during the fortieth and forty-first sessions.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

3. Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

4. In resolution 1987/22 on measures to strengthen the role and functions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council decided to structure the agenda for future sessions of the Commission around its functions, namely programming, coordination, monitoring and policy development. At its thirty-ninth session, the Commission decided to include an item on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women in the provisional agenda for its fortieth session.

5. The provisional agenda and documentation for the fortieth session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1995/252. In the light of the decisions taken by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/203 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Bureau of the Commission met on 30 January, 2 February and 6 February 1996 to consider the agenda and organization of work for the session. On the basis of extensive discussions, the Bureau decided to propose a restructured provisional agenda so that the Commission could focus on the aspects of its work that were mandated by the General Assembly as a result of the Fourth World Conference on Women. The present document contains the provisional agenda proposed by the Bureau. The annotations reflect the decisions taken by the Bureau.

6. The Bureau, in an effort to make more efficient use of the time available to the Commission, decided to include in the organization of work a series of dialogues on the implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern, with expert panels and with organizations of the United Nations system, from which Governments could derive action-oriented agreed conclusions. The proposed organization of work for the session is contained in the annex below.

7. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/69, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session (E/CN.6/1996/L.1)

Item 3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

8. The Bureau of the Commission has proposed that the central focus of the fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women should be follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women. The agenda has been arranged to deal systematically with those issues concerning follow-up that were raised by the General Assembly, as well as those that were included in the provisional agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1995/252.

(a) Mandate, methods of work and multi-year work programme of the Commission on the Status of Women

9. The General Assembly, in resolution 50/203, decided that the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and with Assembly resolution 48/162 and other relevant resolutions, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in overall policy-making and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action. It invited the Economic and Social Council to review and strengthen the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women, taking into account the Platform for Action as well as the need for synergy with all other related commissions and conference follow-up. It decided that the Commission on the Status of Women should have a central role in the monitoring, within the United Nations system, of the implementation of the Platform for Action and in advising the Council thereon. It requested the Commission to develop its multi-year programme of work for the period 1996-2000 at its fortieth session so that it could review the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action, and to consider how it could integrate into its programme of work the follow-up to the Conference and how it could develop its catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/CN.6/1996/2)

(b) Review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system

10. Also in resolution 50/203, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report, through the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first

session on ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference in the most integrated and effective way, including human and financial requirements. The Commission will have before it the requested report.

System-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women

11. By resolution 1993/16, the Council endorsed the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 as a general framework for the coordination of system-wide efforts; requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to arrange for a revision of the system-wide medium-term plan after the Platform for Action and the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women had been adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women; and decided that the Commission on the Status of Women, together with the Committee for Programme and Coordination, should be given the responsibility for monitoring progress on the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women.

12. The Commission will have before it a draft of the proposed revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001.

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

13. In accordance with the relevant regulations and rules governing programme planning, the programme aspects of the budget, the monitoring of implementation and methods of evaluation, the Commission will have before it draft proposals on the subprogramme on advancement of women of the programme on policy coordination and sustainable development.

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

14. In resolution 1995/28 on improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat, the Economic and Social Council urged the Secretary-General to implement fully the strategic plan of action for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (1995-2000), noting that his visible commitment was essential to the achievement of the targets set by the General Assembly; and also urged him to accord greater priority to the recruitment and promotion of women in posts subject to geographical distribution, particularly in senior policy-level and decision-making posts and within those parts of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies where representation of women was considerably below the average.

15. In resolution 50/164, the General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to implement the strategic plan of action and to fulfil his target of having women hold 50 per cent of managerial and decision-making positions by the year 2000; urged him to continue his work on improving the work practices and environment within the United Nations system, and to increase the number of women employed in the Secretariat from developing countries; requested him to ensure that equal employment opportunities existed for all staff; also requested him to enable the Focal Point for Women within the Secretariat

effectively to monitor and facilitate progress in the implementation of the strategic plan of action; and further requested him, in accordance with the relevant rules on the delivery timetable for documentation, to ensure that a progress report on the status of women in the Secretariat was submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fortieth session.

16. The Commission will have before it the requested report.

Mainstreaming women's human rights

17. In resolution 39/5, the Commission stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights to ensure that the United Nations human rights mechanisms addressed on a regular basis violations of the human rights of women and that the Commission on the Status of Women regularly took stock of that integration process while carrying out its central role of monitoring activities relating to the status of women. It requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to see to the preparation of a joint work plan on the human rights of women for the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women on an annual basis and to inform both the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women at their annual sessions, beginning in 1995, of the plans to facilitate the mainstreaming of the human rights of women, in the context of the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights. It requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women, at its annual session in 1996, on the implementation of the resolution. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution as well as a report on the joint work plan.

18. In addition, the Commission will have before it extracts from the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifteenth session.

Violence against women, including migrant women workers

19. In resolution 39/7, the Commission on the Status of Women requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fortieth session a copy of his report to the General Assembly on violence against women migrant workers, which should include the reports to be submitted by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, the Centre for Human Rights, relevant United Nations functional bodies and organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. The report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session will be made available to the Commission. In addition, the Commission will have before it a note updating the information contained in that report.

20. In resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information regarding its activities to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and Commission on Human Rights. It also

requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and Commission on Human Rights. The Commission will be provided with such information.

Palestinian women

21. In resolution 1995/30 on Palestinian women, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children. It requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fortieth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution. The report of the Secretary-General on this question will be before the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference in the most integrated and effective way, including human and financial requirements (E/CN.6/1996/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in improving the status of women in the Secretariat (E/CN.6/1996/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/1996/8)

Report of the Secretary-General on the extent to which violations of women's human rights have been addressed by human rights mechanisms (E/CN.6/1996/9)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting information provided by the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/166 (E/CN.6/1996/11)

Note by the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (E/CN.6/1996/12)

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for Human Rights (E/CN.6/1996/13)

Note by the Secretary-General containing draft proposals for the subprogramme on the advancement of women for the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (E/CN.6/1996/14)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the results of the fifteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/1996/CRP.1)

Note by the Secretary-General containing a draft of the proposed revised system-wide medium-term plan for advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 (E/CN.6/1996/CRP.2)

Documentation for information

Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (A/50/378)

Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (A/50/691)

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern

22. In resolution 50/203, the General Assembly requested the Commission to consider how it could integrate into its programme of work the follow-up to the Conference and how it could develop its catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities, taking into account the need for a focused and thematic approach to the review of the Platform for Action and the contribution that could be made by all other functional commissions of the Council.

(i) Poverty

23. Poverty is the first in the list of critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action. By its resolution 48/183, the General Assembly proclaimed 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. By its decision 1995/321, the Economic and Social Council decided that coordination of the activities of the United Nations system for the eradication of poverty would be the theme for the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1996, and that it would focus on, inter alia, coordination of United Nations efforts to ensure that all its activities for poverty eradication took fully into account the gender perspective.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on issues related to poverty (E/CN.6/1996/CRP.)

(ii) Women and the media

24. In resolution 1990/15, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the priority themes for the thirty-seventh to fortieth sessions of the Commission. For the fortieth session, the Council included in the list of priority themes the elimination of stereotyping in the mass media. This theme is directly related to women and the media, the critical area of concern addressed in chapter IV, section J, of the Platform for Action. The report on the priority theme, emphasizing measures to address the critical area of concern, will be before the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the elimination of stereotyping in the mass media (E/CN.6/1996/4)

(iii) Child and dependant care, including sharing of responsibilities between men and women

25. In resolution 1990/15, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the priority themes for the thirty-seventh to fortieth sessions of the Commission. For the fortieth session, the Council included in the list of priority themes child and dependant care, including sharing of responsibilities between men and women. The issue of child and dependant care, including sharing of responsibilities between men and women is found in many parts of the Platform for Action and was intended to be a theme that would cut across various sections of the Platform. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme, emphasizing the relationship with the relevant critical areas of concern. The Commission will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on education for peace.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on child and dependant care, including sharing of responsibilities between men and women (E/CN.6/1996/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on education for peace (E/CN.6/1996/6)

Item 4. Communications concerning the status of women

26. In resolution 76 (V) of 5 August 1947, the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission on the Status of Women would handle communications relating to the status of women. In resolution 304 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

27. In resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women, and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

28. In resolution 1993/11, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed that the Commission on the Status of Women was empowered to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/1996/S.W. Communications List No. 30)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the non-confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/1996/CR.32)

Item 5. Elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

29. In resolution 1995/29, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission on the Status of Women should establish an in-session open-ended working group for a two-week period at its fortieth session to consider a comprehensive report by the Secretary-General, including a synthesis, on the views of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on an optional protocol to the Convention. The requested report will be before the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing the views of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/1996/10 and Add.1)

Item 6. Provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission

30. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-first session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission, and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

Item 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fortieth session

31. In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its session.

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Week of 11-15 March 1996

Monday, 11 March

a.m.		Opening of the session
	Item 1	Election of officers
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
	Item 3	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
p.m.*	Item 3	General discussion

Tuesday, 12 March

a.m.*	Item 3	Continuation of general discussion
p.m.*	Item 3	Continuation of general discussion

Wednesday, 13 March

a.m.*	Item 3 (c)	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern: Poverty Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue
p.m.*	Item 3 (c)	Dialogue with representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions

Thursday, 14 March

a.m.*	Item 3 (c)	Dialogue among Governments
p.m.*	Item 3 (c)	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern: Women and the media Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue

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* The meeting of the in-session open-ended working group of the Commission to elaborate a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women will be held simultaneously with the plenary meeting.

Friday, 15 March

a.m.* Item 3 (c) Dialogue among Governments

p.m.* Item 3 (c) Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern: Child and dependant care, including sharing of responsibilities between men and women

Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue

Week of 18-22 March

Monday, 18 March

a.m. Item 3 (c) Dialogue among Governments

p.m.* Item 3 Informal consultations

6 p.m. Deadline for submission of draft proposals on item 3

Tuesday, 19 March

a.m.* Item 3 Informal consultations

p.m.* Item 3 Informal consultations

Wednesday, 20 March

a.m.* Item 4 Closed meeting of the Commission to consider the report of the Working Group on Communications, followed by:

Item 3 Conclusion of general discussion

p.m.* Item 3 Informal consultations

Thursday, 21 March

a.m.* Item 3 Informal consultations

p.m.* Items 3 and 5 Introduction of draft proposals, followed by:

p.m. Informal consultations on all outstanding issues, if necessary

Friday, 22 March

a.m. and p.m.		Action on draft proposals and on the proposed agreed conclusions on item 3 (c)
p.m.	Item 6	Provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission
	Item 7	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fortieth session
		Closure of the session